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PP RUEHPA  
DE RUEHAS #0906 2290613  
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FM AMEMBASSY ALGIERS  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6246  
INFO RUEHZK/ECOWAS COLLECTIVE  
RUEHUJA/AMEMBASSY ABUJA 0066  
RUEHAR/AMEMBASSY ACCRA 0560  
RUEHBP/AMEMBASSY BAMAKO 0656  
RUEHDK/AMEMBASSY DAKAR 0090  
RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON 1816  
RUEHNM/AMEMBASSY NIAMEY 1692  
RUEHNK/AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT 6477  
RUEHOU/AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU 0271  
RUEHFR/AMEMBASSY PARIS 2832  
RUEHRB/AMEMBASSY RABAT 2464  
RUEHTU/AMEMBASSY TUNIS 7320  
RUEHBS/USEU BRUSSELS  
RUEHDS/AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA 0765

C O N F I D E N T I A L ALGIERS 000906

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 08/12/2018

TAGS: PGOV PREL MR AG

SUBJECT: ALGERIA STANDS QUIETLY BEHIND AU AND ARAB LEAGUE RESPONSES TO MAURITANIA COUP

REF: STATE 84915

Classified By: CDA, a.i. Thomas F. Daughton; reasons 1.4 (b, d).

¶1. (C) Charge met with newly appointed MFA Director General for African Affairs (A/S equivalent) Lounes Magramane on August 13 to deliver reftel demarche and underscore the need for a constitutional resolution to the crisis in Mauritania. Magramane said that Algeria was closely monitoring events in Nouakchott, adding that there was no doubt about the need to restore a constitutionally legitimate government. Asked directly whether Algeria would issue a public statement to this effect, Magramane quickly pointed out that the African Union had already suspended Mauritania's membership and stated publicly the need for a constitutional solution. Magramane added that AU and Arab League envoys were delivering that message to General Abdel Aziz. Magramane also argued that Algeria's public position required no clarification since the 1999 AU proclamation reaffirming the Harare Decision on unconstitutional removal of governments was adopted in Algiers.

¶2. (C) Charge asked if Algeria would be prepared to support an Arab Maghreb Union (UMA) condemnation of the Mauritanian coup. Magramane responded that the UMA was currently under the presidency of Libya, and the Algerians thus had no idea what the UMA was going to do: "We're not party to those discussions," he remarked wryly.

¶3. (C) COMMENT: So far, the Algerians are satisfied with the AU's public response to the coup and appear to prefer to use the AU statement for diplomatic cover and as an excuse to make no statement of their own. While President Bouteflika and Foreign Minister Medelci did not return from their weeklong trip to Asia until late on August 12, we do not anticipate a significant change in the Algerian position -- at least as long as the AU process appears to be continuing.  
DAUGHTON